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of England. The office is unique. Its holder is a direct participant in the legislative, the executive, and the judicial functions of the government. He is the presiding officer of the House of Lords, and takes part in legislation; he is an important member of the Cabinet, and takes part in administration; he is at the head of the administration of equity, and he is first among the Law Lords in the highest branch of the Supreme Court of Judicature, — the House of Lords sitting as a court. To fill the office a man must be something more than a mere legislator, than an administrator, than a great lawyer or a good judge. To fill it as it should be filled, he must combine the essential qualities of all. This should be borne in mind as one reads Mr. Atlay's book.

In volume one the author writes of the lives of but three of the Victorian chancellors, — Lyndhurst, Cottenham, and Truro. He includes in the volume Lord Brougham, who was not a Victorian Chancellor, but whose career was so closely allied with the fortunes of his immediate successors that it was necessary for completeness. The lives of Lyndhurst and of Brougham occupy more than four-fifths of the volume; only eighty pages are devoted to Cottenham and to Truro together. We might be disposed to find fault with the disproportion if we did not bear in mind the threefold nature of the Chancellor's office, and the type of man necessary to fill it. Lyndhurst and Brougham were leaders in Parliament, and leaders of their parties in the stirring days of Catholic Emancipation, and the First Reform of Parliament. Cottenham and Truro were of a later time, and were far less prominent in party councils.

In the life of Brougham is an interesting, careful, and apparently unbiased story of the famous trial of Queen Caroline in which Brougham did his most noted service as an advocate, and in which were opposed to him, among others, his friend Sir John Singleton Copley, afterwards Lord Lyndhurst, and the famous James Parke, afterwards Lord Wensleydale.

The book shows painstaking and careful investigation, and throughout the quotations from original sources are useful and apt. The author has handled his material judiciously, and has avoided the position either of an enthusiastic partisan in the one case or unreasoning detractor in the other. The lawyer will perhaps be a little disappointed that Mr. Atlay has not given more space and consideration to an estimate of the legal ability and services of the chancellors; but no question can be made that he has shown with great clearness their position as great public servants in the world of affairs. The book is very readable.

S. H. E. F.

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THE PUBLICATIONS OF THE SELDEN SOCIETY. Volume XXI. For the year 1906. BOROUGH CUSTOMS. Volume II. Edited for the Selden Society by Mary Bateson. London: Bernard Quaritch. 1906. pp. clxx, 224. 4to.

This volume deserves much praise for the value of the material which the editor has collected and for the high standard of scholarship which she has displayed in editing her texts. The work as a whole ranks among the best publications of the Selden Society, and is the most valuable contribution to our knowledge of English municipal history produced in recent times. An elaborate introduction explains "how the borough customs differed from the law of the land, why they differed, and in what way they were brought ultimately into such harmony that borough custom has ceased to be a matter of much practical interest." The editor calls attention to the fact that the boroughs long retained many interesting archaic practices derived from Anglo-Saxon and Danish folk-law. She also shows that the borough customs contributed something to the making of the common law.

We have little to offer in the way of criticism. Perhaps the editor is inclined to see "suggestions of high antiquity" in too many borough customs. It is misleading to couple "lot," or right to share in bargains, with "scot," or duty of payment to common charges (p. xlix). An earlier reference to the term of forty weeks in the action of "fresh force" at Oxford than the one mentioned on page cxx will be found in Year Book, 15 Edward III. 478, edited by L. O. Pike.

C. G.